

Readers Guide to the Document

CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS), describes the purpose and need to which the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responding, provides an overview of the BLM planning process, identifies planning issues and criteria, and identifies topics not addressed by this RMP revision.

CHAPTER TWO – ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes how the five alternatives (A, B, C, D, and E) were developed, the components and content of each alternative. It also, discusses the alternatives considered but eliminated from further consideration. Finally it presents a comparative summary of impacts of each alternative.

Alternative A (no action) is listed as a complete alternative, whereas Alternatives B, C, D and E (the action alternatives) include some management decisions in common. For a complete understanding of these the individual decision within these alternatives must be combined with the management decisions detailed under *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Maps referenced (as Map 2.X) for each alternative are located at the end of the first alternative referencing them (with the exception of Livestock Grazing and Route Designation maps – located in a separate oversized map packet available for download) , these maps are not repeated in the document if referenced later.

To further aid in organization, program discussions are organized into four main subgroups; Resources, Resource Uses, Special Designation and Social and Economic Considerations. Within these subgroups programs are listed alphabetically, as follows:

Resources: Air and Atmospheric Values, Biological Resources, Cave and Karst Resource, Cultural Resources, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Paleontological Resources, Soil Resources, Water Resources, Wildland Fire Ecology and Management, and Visual Resources.

Resource Uses: Comprehensive Trail and Travel Management, Lands and Realty, Livestock Grazing, Minerals Management, Recreation and Visitor Services (including Environmental Education and Interpretation).

Special Designations: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Back Country Byways, National Trails, Outstanding Natural Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas.

Social and Economic Considerations: Public Safety and Health, Social and economic values and Tribal Interests.

Programs are organized in the same fashion throughout the remainder of the document.

CHAPTER THREE - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the Bakersfield FO Planning and Decision Area and the existing environmental conditions that could be impacted by implementation of the alternatives.

CHAPTER FOUR - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter forms the scientific and analytic basis of the environmental impacts of each alternative, including the No Action Alternative.

Impacts generally are described in terms of direct or indirect and short-term or long-term, when applicable. Potential cumulative and unavoidable impacts and irreversible and irretrievable commitments also are discussed in this chapter.

CHAPTER FIVE - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, CONSULTATION, AND COORDINATION

This chapter describes the public involvement process, as well as other key consultation and coordination activities undertaken to prepare the EIS in support of the RMP revision. This chapter also includes a list of preparers displaying the names and resource topics each individual was responsible for preparing.

CHAPTER SIX – REFERENCES

This chapter provides full citation information for all references cited within the document.

GLOSSARY

The Glossary defines selected terms used throughout this document.

APPENDICES

The appendices include documents that support existing resource conditions or situations, substantiate analyses, provide resource management guidance, explain processes, or provide information directly relevant or supporting conclusions in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Changes to the Document between Draft and Proposed/Final

Substantive changes between the draft documents and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are identified throughout the document through the use of “Styles”. Substantive removals from the draft document are marked through the use of: ~~*Italicized, Underlined and Strike Through*~~ text style, whereas addition to the document are identified by: *Italicized and Underlined* text style.

Acreage and Geographic Information System Calculations

The majority of acreage and miles in this document are calculated using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The use of GIS spatial analysis can provide precise acreage calculations; however, for the ease of reading these values have been rounded. It should be noted that the acreage values are only as

accurate as the data that is entered. Various factors can affect the accuracy of data including data collection and entry, scale, and timeframe. Until these calculations are confirmed through field surveys using a Global Positioning System, all GIS calculations are for reference and comparative purposes only.

To ensure the RMP is as up-to-date as possible acreages and acreage calculations used in the proposed plan alternative reflect updated land/mineral estate ownership information that accounts for numerous minor mapping errors discovered in the process of developing the draft document and several land acquisitions that have occurred during the planning process.